

What is claimed is:

- 1        1. A fixed blade knife comprising:
  - 2            a) a blade and tang piece wherein said blade and tang extend from an integral  
3                junction to respective terminal ends along a first longitudinal axis;
  - 4            b) a handle piece having a second longitudinal axis, distal and proximal ends,  
5                and a through, longitudinal opening, said opening having a first portion of  
6                keyhole shape, with a cylindrical central portion and rectangular portions on  
7                opposite sides, extending into said distal end for a first portion of the length of  
8                said handle piece, and a second portion of cylindrical shape extending into  
9                said proximal end to adjoin said keyhole shape;
  - 10           c) a slot extending into said terminal end of said tang substantially along said  
11                axis, said slot having a first portion extending from said terminal end for a  
12                first distance having a first width, and a second portion extending from said  
13                first portion for a second distance having a second width;
  - 14           d) a nut having a threaded bore with a central axis, and an external surface  
15                having two opposite sides formed in a cylindrical plane and two opposite,  
16                planar surfaces spaced by a distance equal to or slightly smaller than said  
17                second width of said tang slot said nut having an axial length less than said  
18                second distance; and
  - 19           e) a screw having a threaded portion for engagement with said bore and a head  
20                portion having a maximum cross-dimension larger than the diameter of said  
21                second portion of said handle opening.

- 1       2. The knife of claim 1 wherein said first and second longitudinal axes are  
2       substantially coaxial.
- 1       3. The knife of claim 1 wherein said nut has an axial length which is at least 90% of  
2       said second distance of said slot.
- 1       4. The knife of claim 1 wherein said second portion of said handle portion through  
2       opening includes a first section of diameter equal to or slightly larger than the  
3       diameter of said screw threaded portion, and a second section of diameter larger  
4       than said maximum cross-dimension of said screw head portion, said first section  
5       extending from said first portion of said handle portion through opening to merge  
6       with said second section and said second section extending from said first section  
7       to said proximal end of said handle piece.
- 1       5. The knife of claim 1 wherein said tang has a predetermined, uniform thickness  
2       and said planar surfaces of said nut have widths at least as great as said thickness.
- 1       6. The knife of claim 1 wherein said tang has an axial length which is at least 90%  
2       of said first portion of the length of said handle piece.
- 1       7. The knife of claim 6 wherein said tang has an axial length which is substantially  
2       as great as said first portion of the length of said handle piece.
- 1       8. The knife of claim 7 wherein said blade is wider than said tang at the junction  
2       thereof, forming a pair of stepped shoulders limiting the extent of axial advance of  
3       said tang into said handle through opening.

- 1        9. The method of fabricating and assembling a fixed blade knife comprising:
- 2            a) forming an integral blade and tang extending along a common, first
- 3                longitudinal axis from a mutual junction to respective terminal ends;
- 4            b) forming a slot extending into said tang terminal end, said slot having first
- 5                and second portions with a common, first central axis extending linearly
- 6                parallel to said first longitudinal axis, said first portion extending from an
- 7                open end at said tang terminal end to a first junction with said second
- 8                portion, and said second portion extending from said first junction to a
- 9                closed end, said first and second portions having respective first and
- 10              second, minimum widths at said first junction, said second width being
- 11              larger than said first width;
- 12            c) forming a handle having proximal and distal ends, and a cavity extending
- 13                from a first open end at said distal end to a second junction with a bore
- 14                extending from said second junction to a second open end at said proximal
- 15                end, said bore having a second central axis;
- 16            d) forming a nut having a threaded bore with a second longitudinal axis, a
- 17                first cross dimension slightly less than said second width, allowing said
- 18                first threaded fastener to be moved laterally into said second portion of
- 19                said slot, and a second cross dimension perpendicular to said first cross
- 20                dimension and larger than said second width;
- 21            e) placing said nut in said second portion of said slot with said second
- 22                longitudinal axis coaxial with said first central axis;

23           f) advancing said tang terminal end, with said nut positioned in said second  
24           portion of said slot, into said first open end of said cavity until said tang  
25           terminal end reaches said second junction with said second longitudinal  
26           axis coaxial with said second central axis;  
27           g) inserting a screw having external threads matable with said threaded bore  
28           into said second open end of said cavity; and  
29           h) advancing said screw through said cavity bore to engage said threaded  
30           bore and tightening said screw.

1       10. The method of claim 9 and further comprising forming said bore with a first  
2       portion extending from said second junction to a second portion which extends to  
3       said handle proximal end, said first and second bore portions having respective  
4       first and second diameters, said second diameter being larger than said first  
5       diameter.

1       11. The method of claim 10 wherein said screw has a threaded stem portion having a  
2       diameter not more than said first diameter, and a head portion having a maximum  
3       cross dimension not more than said second diameter, whereby said stem portion  
4       may be advanced through said first bore portion while said head portion remains  
5       in said second bore portion.

1       12. The method of claim 11 wherein said second bore portion and said head portion  
2       have substantially equal axial lengths, whereby said head portion is substantially  
3       flush with said proximal end of said handle when said stem is fully engaged with  
4       said threaded bore.

- 1 13. The method of claim 9 wherein each of said first and second portions of said slot  
2 have substantially constant widths over their respective axial lengths.
- 1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein said nut has an axial length slightly less than the  
2 axial length of said first slot portion.
- 1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the axial length of said first slot portion is less  
2 than one-half the axial length of said second slot portion.
- 3 16. The method of claim 9 wherein said tang portion has an axial length substantially  
4 equal to the axial length of said first cavity portion.
- 1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein said first slot portion has a substantially constant  
2 cross sectional outline throughout its axial length, said outline conforming  
3 substantially to the cross sectional outline of said tang portion with said nut  
4 located in said first slot portion.